

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1317

EXDIS

DEPT PASS COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS - MEETING WITH
FONMIN AGUSTSSON

1. I MET WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON AND HANS ANDERSEN
SEP 20 BEFORE THEY DEPARTED FOR NEW YORK. WE
REVIEWED THE DRAFT EXCHANGE OF NOTES, MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING, AGREED MINUTE, PROGRAM FOR SEP 26,
DRAFT OUTLINE OF SCENARIO, AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S
REMARKS. EMBASSY TRANSMITTED AS SEPTELS TODAY, PER PINKNEY-
IRVING TELECON, ACTUAL TEXTS OF THESE PAPERS THAT FONMIN
NOW HAS IN HIS POSSESSION. REYKJAVIK TEL 1314
IS A LIST OF THE PERTINENT REYKJAVIK TELEGRAM NUMBERS.

2. FONMIN WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT HIS SPOKEN ENGLISH
VOCABULARY IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED AND, THEREFORE,
HE PREFERS TO LISTEN RATHER THAN ASK QUESTIONS.
HE ASSUMES THE USG MEMBERS WILL DO MOST OF THE TALKING AT
HIS VARIOUS CALLS AND AT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S LUNCHEON
SEP 26 THAT TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO OFFICIAL NEGOTIATING
SESSION WHICH COMMENCES AT 2:30 P.M.

3. THERE FOLLOWS PERTINENT POINTS DISCUSSED DURING MY
MEETING WITH AGUSTSSON AND ANDERSEN.

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4. PROGRAM FOR SEP 26, DRAFT OUTLINE SCENARIO AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S REMARKS: FONMIN SAID ALL LOOKS FINE. HE AND ANDERSEN ON FLIGHT EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK WILL DRAFT FONMIN'S PART OF THE DIALOGUE AND WILL TRY TO HAVE READY FOR MY REVIEW WHEN WE MEET AT HOTEL BARCLAY, NEW YORK CITY, MONDAY, SEP 23 AT 10A.M.

5. EXCHANGE OF NOTES: FONMIN SAID LOOKS FINE.

6. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: FONMIN SAID HE WAS CONTEMPLATING ASKING US TO CLASSIFY THE AGREED MINUTE AS "CONFIDENTIAL". BECAUSE DEPT'S STRONG VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN STATE TEL 206635 THAT CATEGORY II AIRPORT UPGRADING PROJECT SHOULD BE IN MOU, I THEN SUGGESTED AND FONMIN AGREED TO MOVE THE CATEGORY II PARAGRAPH FROM AGREED MINUTE TO THE MOU. HE WAS DELIGHTED TO DO SO, FOR REASONS EXPRESSED REYKJAVIK TEL 1304. FONMIN TOOK NOTE OF THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FOR THE CATEGORY II UPGRADING AND TO HIMSELF MUTTERED WHY 10 YEARS AND WHY NECESSARY TO MENTION 10 YEARS. (COMMENT: WASHINGTON SHOULD PREPARE AN ANSWER TO THIS IF HE ASKS AT SEP 26 SESSION.)

7. AGREED MINUTE: FONMIN ASKED WHETHER POSSIBLE TO ADD STATEMENT THAT WE ALSO AGREE TO ROTATE THE UNITS (P-3 SQUADRON, EC-121'S AND THE HC-130 REFUELERS) WHICH TOTAL 445. I SAID WE ARE ALREADY ROTATING THESE UNITS AND WOULD BE MISLEADING TO SAY WE WILL ONLY NOW INITIATE THE ROTATIONAL PLAN. HE ASKED WHO WOULD KNOW. I REPLIED THAT OPPONENTS OF THE IDF COULD FIND OUT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND WOULD THEN SUBJECT HIM AND USG TO UNPLEASANT CRITICISM. I REMINDED HIM THAT SINCE THE NOVEMBER NEGOTIATIONS WE HAD AGREED TO REFER TO THE 3317 TOTAL MILITARY MANPOWER AS 2872 "HOME-BASED IN ICELAND" AND 445 "ON ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT" WHICH TOGETHER TOTAL 3317. THE REDUCTION OF 420 IS IN THE CATEGORY DEFINED AS "HOME-BASED IN ICELAND". I SUGGESTED THAT BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP HIM PHRASE A STATEMENT FOR WHATEVER AUDIENCE HE HAD IN MIND. CONFIDENTIAL

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8. ALSO, WITH REGARD TO THE AGREED MINUTE, FONMIN EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH INCLUSION OF PARA B "DURING PEAK PERIODS OF SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY, THE U.S. MAY TEMPORARILY ARGUMENT THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE". HE SUGGESTED WE COULD DO IT WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE KNOW. I TOLD HIM WE FELT STRONGLY ABOUT ITS INCLUSION AS BOTH DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY FOR REASONS OF CREDIBILITY.

ANDERSEN REMARKED HE THOUGHT NATO WOULD QUESTION GOOD FAITH OF GOI IF NOT INCLUDED. I REMARKED CZECH EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN US THAT PERIODS OF SO-CALLED ROUTINE MILITARY EXERCISES WARRANT EXTRA PRECAUTION. WE, THEREFORE, MUST HAVE THE UNQUESTIONED RIGHT TO DO THIS, BUT WE WILL ADVISE GOI WHEN WE DO IT, IF THIS WILL RELIEVE HIS MIND. WHEN HE SAW HIMSELF OUTNUMBERED AND OUTPOINTED HE GAVE IN AND REMARKED HE MIGHT WANT THE "AGREED MINUTE" PAPER KEPT CONFIDENTIAL SO IT DID NOT REALLY MATTER.

9. AIR TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION: FONMIN NOTED IN UNDERSEC SISCO'S REMARKS THAT "USG WILL BE PREPARED TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THE US SHARE OF A JOINTLY-FINANCED SEPARATE CIVIL TERMINAL COMPLEX NOT INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CIVILIAN TERMINAL BUILDING". FONMIN ASKED ME WHETHER HE WAS WASTING HIS TIME TRYING TO GET USG TO FINANCE THE TERMINAL BUILDING. I REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. HE THEN ASKED IF STATE DEPT WOULD USE ITS "GOOD OFFICES" TO HELP GOI OBTAIN A LOAN FROM EXIM BANK AND/OR OTHER LENDING INSTITUTIONS IF GOI SOUGHT LOANS TO CONSTRUCT THE BUILDING. I SUGGESTED HE ASK THAT QUESTION AT THE SEP 26 SESSION.

10. PROHIBITION AGAINST STRIKES: FONMIN UNDERSTANDS THE REASON FOR THIS AND AGREES, BUT ASKED FOR MY ADVICE ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT THIS. ANDERSEN SUGGESTED ICELAND DEFENSE COUNCIL (IDC) HIRE THE ICELANDERS AND THEN THEY BECOME ICELANDIC CIVIL SERVANTS. I EXPRESSED AGAIN WHY I DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF THE IDC HIRING THEM AND SUGGESTED THEY DO SOME MORE THINKING ABOUT IT. I AGREED TO STUDY THE MATTER, TOO. CONFIDENTIAL

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11. GENERAL COMMENT: I BELIEVE FONMIN, ANDERSEN AND I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT POSSIBLE. WHEN FONMIN LEFT ICELAND YESTERDAY HE AGREED TO THE ITEMS AND WORDING OF THE 3 BASIC DOCUMENTS. I AM UNDER NO ILLUSION, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT OFFER "SOME FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR CONSIDERATION" WHEN WE MEET IN NEW YORK MONDAY MORNING. ANDERSEN WILL TRY TO PREVENT OR MINIMIZE THESE AND I WILL DO LIKEWISE IF THEY APPEAR TO BE CONTRARY TO USG INTERESTS.

12. I WILL SPEND SUNDAY EVENING AT SUMMIT HOTEL IN NEW YORK AND WILL TELEPHONE ANNE PINKNEY MONDAY

MORNING 8:30 A.M. FOR LAST-MINUTE GUIDANCE
REGARDING MY MEETING WITH FONMIN AT 10 A.M.
IRVING

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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